

FUND DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

Program: Special Higher Education Scholarships

Type of Funding: Recurring (Non Base) – Contract Program

Funding Authority/Responsibility: 25 U.S.C. 13 (The Snyder Act of November 2, 1921), 42 Stat. 208, Pub.L. 67-85; 90 Stat. 2233, Pub.L. 94-482. 25 U.S.C. 461 et seq. (The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934), 48 Stat. 984, Pub.L. 73-383; Pub.L. 103-263. 25 U.S.C. 450 (The Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act), 88 Stat. 2203, Pub.L. 93-638. 20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq. (The Higher Education Act of 1965) Pub.L. 89-329, as amended, Pub.L. 102-325, 105-244, 110-315. 25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq. (Tribally Controlled Colleges or Universities Assistance Act of 1978) Pub.L. 95-471, as amended, Pub.L. 105-244, Sec 901, 122 Stat. 3078, Pub.L. 110-315. 25 U.S.C. 640a-640c-3 (Navajo Community College Act of 1971) 85 Stat. 646, Pub.L. 92-189, 122 Stat. 3468, Pub.L. 100-315, as amended, Authorized through 2014.

The Director, Bureau of Indian Education has responsibility for these funds.

Criteria for Distribution: The Special Higher Education Program (SHEP) is a three-pronged program that supports BIE's commitment to education and the goals for higher education. As tribes seek to develop their communities in economically disadvantaged rural areas, they require trained professionals to plan and implement tribal development goals. Many of these professionals need the knowledge that they can acquire by pursuing post-secondary degrees.

The SHEP program is designed to bring professionals to Native communities. The first component is supplemental financial assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native students for graduate level study. The second component funds students to attend the Pre Law Summer Institute (PLSI), an intensive two month summer orientation program that helps prepare American Indian and Alaska Native students entering the field of law.

The final component was the Loan for Service Program designed to provide financial assistance through loans to eligible American Indian and Alaska Native degree candidates who seek employment with BIE, BIA, or a federally recognized tribe upon graduation.

The BIE contracts operation of this program annually through 2 contracts:

- The American Indian Graduate Center [SHEP]
- The American Indian Law Center [PLSI]).

The SHEP and PLSI contractors award fellowships through an application process and demonstrated desire to return and assist Native populations with priority given to Tribal College and University applicants.

Distribution Process:

- IA Budget notifies the Bureau of Indian Education Budget of the total Special Higher Education Scholarships as appropriated by Congress. (within 5 days of apportionment)
- Contractors review and process applications and forward proposed recipients to BIE.
- The BIE approves all applicants before contractor awards.